



2009 Annual Report

Message from the Fire Chief

Our mission is to make Boulder a safer place to live and work for residents and visitors alike. This report highlights the activities and services provided by the men and women of Boulder Fire/Rescue in the fulfillment of our mission. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to provide quality service to the community. I am extremely proud of the work done by the members of Boulder Fire/Rescue.



The accomplishments outlined in this report not only represent hundreds of hours of work on the part of Fire Department employees but also represent extensive efforts by other departments within the city. Examples of this include work on the Boulder County Regional Fire Training Center, efforts to certify all personnel to national standards, the first annual CU Leadership Fire Academy, work with Open Space and Mountain Parks to reduce wildland fire risks to the community, and numerous training activities with our mutual partners in the region. This annual report details many other examples of our efforts to improve the service we provide to the community in these fiscally restrained times.

With regard to fire loss, 2009 was a very good year. Boulder's \$500,000 fire loss was the lowest in five years and well below the five-year average of \$3.1 million. It is also worth noting that in addition to low property losses, the city experienced no fire fatalities in 2009. It is our hope to be as successful in 2010 as we were in 2009.

Mission Statement

The Boulder Fire Department strives to make Boulder a safe place to live and work. We reduce the human suffering caused by fires, accidents, sudden illness, hazardous material releases, or other disasters.

Vision Statement

We are dedicated to do our job safely and develop our people through education, training, and innovation to provide regional leadership in the fire service. We value a climate of openness, trust, and inclusiveness

Promotions

ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

Michael Rangel

FIRE CODE INSPECTOR

Jennifer Vineyard

ENGINEER

Michael Carnelli

Retirements

LT. PAUL DEMOS

31 Years of Service



LT. SARAH RUFF

24 Years of Service



LT. JUAN ZAVALA

37 Years of Service



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

2009 Accomplishments

Began construction on the Fire Training Center project.

Department's master plan was reviewed by the Planning Board and recommended to City Council for acceptance.

Upgraded the laptops in the engines to provide better connectivity.

Conducted a hiring process for eight new firefighters to replace personnel from retirements and vacancies. Academy for the new recruits begins March 8, 2010.

Reviewed and updated our current paging information in preparation for migration to a City operated paging system.

Two administrative staff attended ICS-300, ICS-346, ICS-347 and ICS-348 training. Those two staff members also became members of the developing Boulder County Type-3 Incident Command Team.

Created new staff identification for the department utilizing the Boulder Police Department's new identification system.



2009 Olde Stage fire

2010 Goals



2009 Swift water rescue training

Assist City of Boulder with implementation of a paging system for emergency responses and call backs.

Complete the new Boulder County Fire Training Center.

Assist City of Boulder with implementation of a new phone system.

Assist City of Boulder and Boulder County with implementation of new computer aided dispatch software.

Implement a new personnel review system.

Update the current records management system.

Revise and adopt a new master plan.

FIRE SAFETY DIVISION

2009 Accomplishments

Inspected 2,066 business/ facilities for fire code compliance.

Continued to evaluate and review our engine company inspection program to provide better customer service to business owners and safety for firefighters.

Promoted an Assistant Fire Marshal.

Replaced Fire Code Inspector.

Reviewed and issued permits for 446 new or remodeled fire systems.

Conducted 20 fire origin and cause investigations.



2009 RA Academy

Public Education

Firefighters in the Classroom program and the Family Fire Safety Homework curriculum are now part of the basic program of study for second graders in Boulder Valley Schools within the city limits.

The first annual CU Leadership Fire Academy was conducted in September with all 24 available spots filled by student leaders from various campus organizations. This new version of the former Greek Academy was re-designed by students to improve the quality of participation and accountability. Each academy graduate taught the members of their sponsoring organization the lessons they learned about fire and fire safety. This effective peer education program reached thousands of students living off campus.

Student ambassadors from the Office of Off Campus Student Services distributed new fire safety door hanger fliers to fellow students during September, National Campus Fire Safety Month.

2010 Goals

Continue to complete inspection cycles on businesses/facilities on schedule and with 100% compliance.

Continue plan review in a timely fashion and maintain cooperative and communicative relationships with plan review applicants.

Implement a pre-fire plan program.

Provide continued training for engine company inspecting officers.



2009 Leadership Academy

OPERATIONS DIVISION

2009 Accomplishments

Planned and participated in a table-top and full-scale flood exercise. Planned and participated in Active Shooter table-top with the University of Colorado Police and City Police department.

Participated in hazmat table-top exercise at National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Awarded, for the first time, three medals of valor to Engineer Don Conyac, Engineer Dave Richter, and Wildland Fire Officer Dave Zadar. Also awarded life saving medals to two engine crews for CPR saves. This included Lt. Nate Hayes, Engineer Dan Purcell, Firefighter Rob Boggess, Lt. Suzy Rueblin, Engineer Jimmy James, and Firefighter Tony Gamberg.

Prepared two engine specifications for purchase of a replacement of pumper at Station 2 and a replacement for a 1974 Wildland tender/pumper.

Prepared operations plan for emergency responders for H1N1 flu vaccinations and the Halloween Mall Crawl.

Replaced bunker gear for firefighters.

Deputy Chief of Operations received a certification in Automated Critical Asset Management System, attended a Department of Homeland Security course with the University of Colorado on stadium security, and completed a Rapid Intervention Team/MADAY training in Berthoud along with Battalion Chief Mark Johnson.

Department completed City wide Diversity training.

2010 Goals

Complete and distribute 2010 map books to the engine companies.

Complete a "Vision Statement" for the department.

Revise our Continuity of Operations Plan, Standard Operations Guidelines/Standard Operations Policies, and "Playbook" .

Analyze our response districts to find areas where response times could be improved by shifting boundaries.

Begin writing a Request for Proposal for a 2012 ambulance contract.

Take possession of two new pumpers.

Develop emergency operations plan for Boulder Valley School District.



2009 Olde Stage fire

TRAINING DIVISION

2009 Accomplishments

Coordinated and participated in two regional training exercises. The hazardous materials training in Longmont and the live fire training in Boulder allowed us to cross-train with Boulder Rural Fire Protection District, Longmont Fire Department and Mountain View Fire Protection District. Benefits included increased familiarity with firefighters in our neighboring departments, common terminology and procedures, and increased knowledge, skills and abilities for all involved.

Trained in two acquired structures. We held rope rescue exercises at the old Hugh M. Woods building and search training in a residence on Linden Avenue. Both structures allowed us to train in ways that we would not have been able to in our current facility. Being able to do search training in an unfamiliar layout was particularly valuable.

Recorded over 11,000 personnel training hours during the course of the year for topics such as extrication, rapid intervention, mayday, photovoltaic systems, dispatch and EMS. Trainings were designed, for the most part, to be relevant, timely and include elements that will allow us to recertify at our current certification levels.

Continued with the State Division of Fire Safety certification program, including certifying 63 personnel to the Fire Fighter 2 level. Our current statistics for state certification are as follows:

- ❖ Hazardous Materials (Operations and/or Technician level): 97%
- ❖ Fire Fighter I and/or Fire Fighter II: 95%
- ❖ Driver Operator (DO), DO - Pumper and/or DO - Aerial: 17%
- ❖ Fire Instructor 1: 11%

Continued the Company Based Training program with a mix of new topics and skills reviews.

Sent a full time instructor, Captain Carol Brown, to the Front Range Consortium fall recruit academy. Captain Brown will also be a lead instructor for this coming spring academy.



Elevator rescue

2010 Goals

Safety will be the main goal. In order to achieve that goal and meet the goals of the City of Boulder Fire Rescue safety will be mandated in every order and command.

Certify all firefighter to a minimum Firefighter II level using the Job Performance Requirements from the State of Colorado Division of Fire Safety

Ensure that the City of Boulder Fire Rescue is in total compliance with the State and Federal guidelines regarding Incident Command System training and certification.

Move into our new facility in the summer of 2010 and use it to elevate our training.

To identify any needed training and/or equipment to keep our firefighters up to the latest fire service levels.

To promote and encourage our Emergency Medical Technicians to continue excellent first response to our citizens.

Train more often with our surrounding agencies and become more familiar with each others field practices.

To ensure that the Training Division promotes Safety as a mainstay of our careers.

WILDLAND DIVISION

2009 Accomplishments

Completed 100 acres of hazard fuel reduction (forest thinning) in conjunction with Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP). This thinning completes one of the outlined projects of our Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Cleared over 20 miles of agricultural ditches on OSMP and Parks and Recreation property.

Burned over 150 slash piles generated from hazard fuel reduction on Watershed property for Public Works. (Fuels reduction completed in 2008). Cut and treated over 50 trees infected with mountain pine beetle for OSMP and Public Works (watershed). Planned, organized and completed over 40 acres of prescribed fire on OSMP property.

Responded to 12 wildfires on or threatening city property including the 6,500 acre Old Stage Fire, where 54 firefighters (34 Structural, 13 OSMP Rangers, 7 Wildland Division) from the City of Boulder responded including 17 pieces of fire equipment.

Since the Old Stage fire the Wildland Division personnel have been instrumental in developing a Boulder County Type-III Incident Command Team. This program will serve the entire Boulder County area and adjacent counties if necessary.

Responded to 17 national incidents in Oregon, Alaska, and Colorado. (All costs reimbursed by the Federal Government.)

Qualified two personnel as Prescribed Fire Type II Burn Boss and one as Engine Boss.

Provided instructors and management staff for three nationally recognized Wildfire and Incident Management Academies. Provided instructors and coordinated the field portion of the Boulder County basic wildfire course.

Provided annual wildfire refresher training to wildland team and structural firefighters.

Instructed S 211 Pumps and S 212 Wildfire Powersaw courses to OSMP and fire department personnel.

Presented fire prevention education to NIST personnel.

Completed a bid for a new wildland/ urban interface engine. (Expected delivery early 2010.)

2010 Goals

Foster a safe working environment to all fire personnel within the realms of wildfire management.

Continue to train division and line personnel to meet the ever changing and demanding job skills that are necessary to insure the safety of our firefighters and the public.

Respond to and suppress all wildland fires on or threatening city property, with a goal of keeping 90% of these fires less than one acre in size.

Complete priority hazard fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects as agreed upon by BFD, OSMP, and Public Works staff.

Create opportunities within the Wildland Division that would allow members to use current qualifications in other programs within the department's "All Risk" programs.

Create a full time Crew Foreman and Crew member position within the Division.

Provide fire personnel, equipment and individual expertise on large national "All Risk" emergencies.



2009 Wintersteen fire

BOULDER COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM

2009 Accomplishments

Established Boulder Fire Station 7 as our base for apparatus and equipment and supplies.

Advanced two members to the State Hazmat Technician level.

Sent members to the California Specialized Training Chemistry Class in Windsor, Colorado.

Added three additional level "A" suits and various equipment.

Increased our chemical classification abilities by purchasing and expanding our chemistry identification kit.

The team and department have established joint hazmat training with our mutual aid agencies.

Participated in the Northern Fire Consortium Hazmat Rodeo.

Expanded our Hazmat Task Force with the establishment of a Boulder Rural Decontamination unit.

Sponsored an IC 300 and 400 class, a 40-hour Homeland Security Weapons of Mass Destruction Medical Training class, and an Instructor I class.

Added an additional five instructors to the team.

Boulder County Hazmat Team Mission Statement:



It is the aim of the Boulder Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Special Operations Team to safely and effectively mitigate any and all hazardous material releases affecting our city and our mutual aid responses. Our primary objectives are to reduce any threats to life safety, minimize the impact upon our environment and promote sustainability of the communities we serve.

2010 Goals

Obtain supplied air equipment.

Advance in trench rescue training and operations.

Add an additional four members to the team.

Sponsor a Weapons of Mass Destruction training.

Encourage and engage in additional regional training with mutual aid agencies.

Advance 4-6 members to the State Hazmat Technician level.



2009 CU Hazmat incident
Photographer David Zader

Hazmat Team Vision:

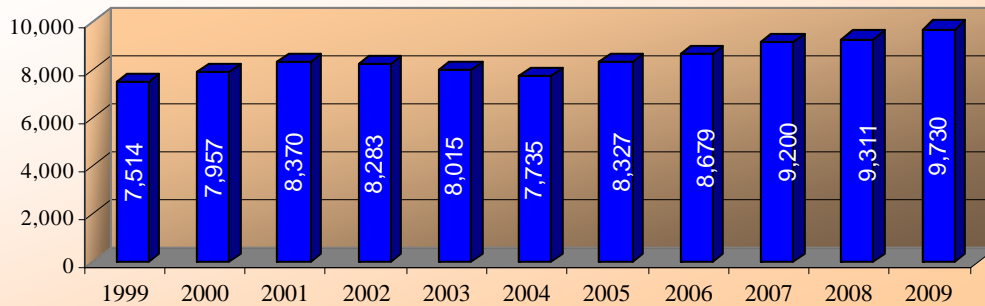
Increase capabilities, influence and presence in the county.
Identify, increase and diversify sources of revenue.
Promote interoperability through strong alliances.
Develop, empower and engage team members.

2009 Departmental Statistics

Total Number of Training Hours - 11,157

2009 Total Budget - \$13,398,578

Annual Responses 1999-2009



2009 Incident Statistics

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Structure Fires | 80 |
| Vehicle Fires | 13 |
| Vegetation Fires | 41 |
| Refuse/Rubbish Fires | 46 |
| Outdoor Furniture Fires | 19 |
| Other Fires | 24 |

Total Fires 223

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Hazardous Conditions | 474 |
| Service Calls | 544 |
| Good Intent Calls | 1,512 |
| Malicious False Alarms | 22 |
| Other False Alarms | 999 |
| Other Calls | 39 |

Total Non-Fire 3,590

Rescue & EMS Incidents 5,917

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Fire Service Injuries | 46 |
| Non-Fire Service Injuries | 2 |
| Fire Service Deaths | 0 |
| Non-Fire Service Deaths | 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Incidents with Exposures | 0 |
| Total Exposures | 0 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Estimated Fire Dollar Loss | \$500,679 |
| Property | \$384,738 |
| Contents | \$115,941 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Mutual Aid Received | 8 |
| Mutual Aid Given | 52 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Response in less than 6 minutes | 72% |
| Overall Average Response Time | 4 minutes 58 seconds |

2009 Incident Responses

